

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

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A flush-mounted panel assembly for a vehicle, comprising in combination:

a panel having an inner and outer surface terminating in a peripheral edge;

at least one mounting member secured to said inner surface and spaced from said peripheral edge, said mounting member having a flange attached to said inner surface; and

an adhesive providing a bond between said flange of said mounting member and said inner surface of said panel, said bond between said flange of said mounting member and said panel being sufficiently strong such that in the event of failure of said panel assembly when a load sufficient to induce failure is imposed between said mounting member and said panel, said failure will occur in at least one failure mode in the group consisting essentially of a) cohesive failure of said adhesive, b) mechanical failure of said panel adjacent said adhesive, and c) mechanical failure of said mounting member adjacent said adhesive, but failure in the adhesion of said adhesive to said mounting member and panel does not occur.

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